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KENT HARPER: Yes.

3 My name is Ken Harper. I'm a
4 reporter for the Ely Daily Times, although
5 the statement that I'd like to make is my
6 own personal statement and not the policy
7 of the newspaper.

8 In the past I've been pretty much
9 neutral about the Yucca Mountain suitable
10 location for a high-level nuclear waste
11 repository. I have felt that the citizens
12 and states certainly have the right to be
13 heard, and there have been some portions of
14 the political process that look to me like
15 they were a little bit outside of
16 constitutional bounds, but, nonetheless, I
17 was basically neutral until September 11th.

18 Obviously there is nothing that is
19 unthinkable anymore. There are people in
20 this world that will do anything that they
21 can think of to harm any number of
22 Americans. I mean, they just scored big
23 with six or 7,000, but this is real.
24 You've been the same people sacrifice
25 themselves just to harm a half dozen
0025

1 people. We're liable to have that same
2 thing here, and certainly we're looking at
3 now all of the assets that we have that
4 have liabilities attached to them.

5 I can't see that transportation of
6 nuclear waste by any means that we have
7 available right now is anything that we
8 should even consider in the world the way
9 it is. We're going to have to put military
10 defenses around our nuclear reactors to
11 protect them from any kind of attack. I
12 think that allowing the spent fuel rods to
13 stay within that parameter of military
14 defence is going to be the safest thing
15 that we can do for our society.

16 That's all I have to say.